Vending/Catering Contract at railway platforms to physically handicapped persons

109. SHRI SHAMIM AHMED SIDDIQI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy in regard to allotment of Vending/Catering Contracts at railway platforms to physically handicapped persons;

(b) whether such candidates are entitled to preferential treatment or are treated at par with others;

(c) what are the details of applications received by Northern and South Eastern Railway (i) direct from handicapped persons and (ii) those duly recommended and forwarded by Members of Parliament during the three years;

(d) the details of the contracts awarded to them during the last one year on each Division of the respective Zonal Railways; and

(e) if no contracts have been awarded, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The extant instructions regarding allotment of Catering/Vending contracts do not envisage any preferential treatment to physically handicapped persons. However, disabled ex-servicemen are one of the categories given preference in allotment of Catering/Vending contracts.

(c) Applications of five physically handicapped persons were forwarded by Members of Parliament. The details of applications sent directly by the handicapped persons to Northern and South Eastern Railways are not available.

(d) and (e) No Catering/Vending contract was awarded to them because either the applicant was not considered eligible or there was no vacancy at the station applied for, or due to congestion at station it was not considerable desirable to add to the number of stalls.

Charge sheets served to staff working in Power Accounts Section, Allahabad, U.P.

110. SHRI SHAMIM AHMED SIDDIQI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the charge sheets for major and minor penalties if any, served by the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, Allahabad, to the staff working in Power Accounts Section during the last one year;

(b) whether the charge sheets were served on the initiative of Vigilance Organisation or by Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer himself;

(c) whether the Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer converted sick period of staff members into leave without pay in order to give unintended benefit of dropping DAR proceedings; and

(d) if so, what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Train parting incidents on Allahabad Division of Northern Railway

111. SHRI SHAMIM AHMED SIDDIQI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train parting incidents which took place on Allahabad Division of the Northern Railway during the period 1984 to 1986, monthwise, separately;

(b) whether these incidents registered an increasing trend in recent